



FSMB Statement of Commitment to Clinician Well-Being and Resilience

The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) has long demonstrated a commitment to clinician well-being through the development of guidance and model policies for its 70 member state medical and osteopathic boards that are developed with the aim of supporting patient safety, and based in principles of transparency and fairness in the licensing and discipline of physicians. Past efforts include supporting our member boards' compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by promoting fair practices in licensing processes, clarifying key issues related to physician illness and impairment, and facilitating safe returns to medical practice for physicians who have licensure restrictions due to illness or previous impairment.

The FSMB has recently reinforced its commitment to physician well-being through the creation of a Workgroup on Physician Wellness and Burnout. This workgroup is charged with identifying resources and strategies to address physician burnout and has elected to carry out its charge through work in four areas:

- 1) **Education:** educating state medical boards and physicians through the collection of research and resources on identifying, managing and preventing physician burnout;
- 2) **Stigma Reduction:** raising awareness about the prevalence of burnout among physicians and other health care professionals and thereby reducing stigma associated with seeking help for burnout symptoms;
- 3) **Research:** evaluating current research on the impact of physician burnout on patient care and promoting research efforts from within the regulatory community;
- 4) **Collaboration:** convening stakeholder organizations and experts to discuss physician wellness and recommend best practices for identifying, managing and preventing physician burnout throughout the career continuum.

The FSMB's Workgroup is drafting recommendations for the licensing community and partner organizations with a nexus to clinician well-being. It plans to release these for comment in late-2017 and to provide final guidance to its member boards in 2018.

The FSMB is committed to considering the impacts that licensing and disciplinary policies and processes can have on physicians. We believe that effective protection of the public and promotion of patient safety include a responsibility to ensure physician well-being, in part through efforts to identify and mitigate risks to the well-being of licensees, both prospective and current.

About the Federation of State Medical Boards

The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) is a national non-profit organization representing all medical boards within the United States and its territories that license and discipline allopathic and

osteopathic physicians and, in some jurisdictions, other health care professionals. The FSMB serves as the voice for state medical boards, supporting them through education, assessment, research and advocacy while providing services and initiatives that promote patient safety, quality health care and regulatory best practices. To learn more about FSMB, visit www.fsmb.org. You can also follow FSMB on Twitter (@theFSMB).